

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An external preparation for skin, which comprises a multi-branched polysaccharide compound with multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton consisting of saccharides selected from 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-mannopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-allopyranose, 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-altropyranose, 1,4-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-ribopyranose, 1,4-anhydro- $\alpha$ -D-xylopyranose, 1,4-anhydro- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranose, 1,4-anhydro- $\alpha$ -D-lyxopyranose, 1,3-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose, 1,3-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-mannopyranose, 1,2-anhydro- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranose, 1,2-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-mannopyranose, and 5,6-anhydro- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranose as constituent units, wherein at least one of hydroxyl (OH) groups in the multi-branched polysaccharide skeleton is substituted by OR wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups or a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon groups which has hetero atom,

wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.1 to 80 mass %.

2-3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the multi-branched polysaccharide compound comprises a polymer obtained by cation polymerization or anion polymerization.

5. (original): The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the branching degree of the multi-branched polysaccharide is 0.05 to 1.00.

6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 1.

8-13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 4.

15. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according claim 5.

16-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic is in liquid form.

22. (new): The external preparation for skin according to claims 1, wherein the amount of the multi-branched polysaccharide contained therein is 0.5 to 80 mass%.